One Cry That Changed Everything

A message for Bethsaida Mission from Mark 10:46–52

Reed S. Rusniak – June 28, 2026

Text: Mark 10:46–52

> *"And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say,* ***'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'*** *And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more,* ***'Son of David, have mercy on me****!' And* ***Jesus stopped and said,*** ***'Call him****.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.' And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him,* ***'What do you want me to do for you?'*** *And the blind man said to him, 'Rabbi, let me recover my sight.' And Jesus said to him,* ***'Go your way; your faith has made you well****.' And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way." (ESV)*

Introduction

- There is a word that those who have served in the Navy, the Air Force, or the Coast Guard **will recognize immediately**.
- When the **word is spoken, every conversation stops**. It doesn't matter what else is happening when that word is used. Every radio operator falls silent. Every air traffic controller freezes in place and listens.
- **The word is Mayday**. It is used when **someone is in serious trouble and desperately needs help. When a pilot or a ship's radio operator says it three times**, **Mayday, Mayday, Mayday**, **the entire system comes to a halt to focus on that one voice. WHY?**
- **Because "Mayday" acknowledges something that pride usually tries to hide: Mayday means *I am out of options and going down fast!***
- **In the text we just read from the Gospel of Mark, the crowd at Jericho was there to see Jesus. Many had heard about or seen His miracles and wanted to see more. They wanted to be near the "celebrity." We might say Jesus was the talk of the town.!**

- But **sitting in the dirt was a man most people didn't give a second thought to. They didn't want to hear him; they wanted him to stay quiet and hidden.**
- You see, **this man was out of options**. **He was more than ready to call out his "Mayday."**
- **If you have ever felt invisible, if you've ever felt like people are not interested in you**, that was likely how Bartimaeus felt.
- **Notice, though, who Jesus stops for. He doesn't stop for the VIPs in the crowd. He stops for the man in the dirt.**
- The **blind beggar had a name, and Mark even tells his father's name**, but **on this particular day, he had something else**, **something more valuable than sight itself. He had a desperate, unstoppable belief that Jesus Christ could help him**.
- **As we look at the story of Blind Bartimaeus, we can see three distinct stages, or milestones, in his journey of faith.**
- **Together, they trace the path of a soul moving from spiritual blindness to spiritual sight and ultimately to following Christ on the road**.
- **Each stage has something important to say to every one of us here today**.

Stage One: True Faith Cries Out For Help Despite the Obstacle (v. 47,48)

- Our first "**stage" is this: True Faith Cries Out for help despite the Obstacle**. **REPEAT.** Look at **verses 47 and 48**. **READ them**. **"And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"**

- Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was passing by, and he did something truly remarkable. **He cried out in a loud voice. He did not wait for a better moment**. He **didn't ask permission**. He didn't **worry about what the crowd would think**.

- He **opened his mouth** and **let the need burning inside him come out**: "**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" You can hear the urgency in his voice!**

- The **crowd tried to shut him down**. **They rebuked him and told him to be quiet, as if to say they were the important people**. **No doubt thinking Jesus is NOT going to stop for some dirty beggar on the street**. **Just keep your mouth closed and be quiet!!**

- **Do you see the obstacles Bartimaeus faced**?

- But **notice what true faith does**. It **does NOT sit down when the crowd tells it to**. We see in verse **48 that Bartimaeus was not quiet, and he cried out all the more. He got louder**. "**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me**."

- The **opposition he faced did not lessen his sense of need**; it intensified it. **Real faith looks past the obstacles because it has its eyes fixed on something, or rather Someone, that no obstacle can diminish.**

- **Dear friends, I want you to hear this**: **We live in a world that will try to tell you to be quiet**. **It will tell you that your needs are too great, your sins too many, and your past too messed up**.

- **The enemy of your soul would love nothing better than to silence your cry before it reaches the ears of Christ**. **Satan hates God, and he hates us** so much that he will do whatever it takes to keep us from Christ.

- **But this man shows us that faith refuses to be quieted**. If anything, the **resistance Bartimaeus encountered made his desire for Christ even more.**

- **Notice also what he called Jesus:** "**Son of David**." This was a very special title. It was the well-known title used **for the expected Savior God had promised to send into the world**.

- **Bartimaeus believed this** and understood more about who Christ was than many who had watched Jesus perform miracles and heard Him preach the Word of God.

- **You see, true Faith does not wait until life is going well**. It calls on Christ as He truly is, Lord and Savior, right in the middle of the mess. **It ignores the voices that would keep us from Christ**.

- **This reminds me of a man I read about named Harold Morris**. While young, he grew up **making one bad decision after another**, and eventually those decisions led him to a **Georgia courtroom**, where he was **convicted of murder and armed robbery and sentenced to life in prison.**

- Inside Georgia State Prison, Harold Morris **was exactly what the world had decided he was. A man with no future, no hope, and nothing left**. **The crowd, so to speak, had already told him to sit down and be quiet. Society had rendered its verdict. He was done**.

- **But inside those walls, Harold Morris heard about Jesus Christ, and something happened in his soul. He called out in faith, and Christ answered him**. His life was so visibly transformed that he was eventually pardoned by the governor of Georgia, and he spent the rest of his life **going into prisons** and schools telling men just like himself that no one is too far gone for the grace of God.

- **Bartimaeus could not see Jesus's face, but he could hear the voice of the one Person who had the power to change everything**.

- **Just as Harold Morris refused to believe that his past had to be his future, Bartimaeus refused to let the voices around him drown out the need inside him. He cried out anyway, and that cry changed everything.**

Stage Two: True Faith Responds Immediately When Christ Calls (vv. 49,50)

- **That leads us to our second stage. True Faith responds immediately when Christ calls. REPEAT** Look at verses 49–50. (READ THEM) **And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.**

- **Something amazing happens. Jesus stopped.** In the **middle of that big, noisy crowd**, with everyone pressing in, the Son of God heard Blind Bartimaeus and **stopped walking because one blind beggar called his name**. **Jesus said two precious words to him,** "**Call him**."

- **And the crowd, which had just told the blind man to be quiet, now turned and said in verse 49,** "**Take heart. Get up; he is calling** you."

- What did Bartimaeus do? **He threw off his cloak! He gave up what was perhaps his most important and valuable possession to follow Christ.**

- **Bartimaeus had a choice to make, and he did NOT hesitate. He had one possession worth keeping (his cloak), yet he threw it aside the moment he heard Jesus's call**.

- **He understood something that so many people miss!**

- **His cloak may not seem like much to us but consider this.**

- **A blind beggar's cloak was very likely his bed at night and his collection tray by day, where people might toss a coin. It was all he had. He threw it off, sprang to his feet, and came to Jesus**.

- **There is something vital here that we must not overlook. Coming to Christ means letting go of the things we have been clinging to, even though we know they are wrong**.

- It **might be our reputation, our pride, our old sinful ways, or even our comfortable excuses for why we cannot change**.

- **True faith does not negotiate with Jesus over what it will give up. It throws off the cloak and runs to HIM**.

- **A drowning man does not turn down a life preserver when it is thrown to him**!

- You may have **heard the word "repentance"! It simply means a change of heart, a turning from trusting yourself to trusting and following Christ**. That is the picture we see here with this blind man.

- **Some of you in this room have heard the call of Christ before, perhaps many times. Yet something has always held you back. You are like the monkey refusing to let go of his treats.**

- **I want to speak directly to you, my friend: the road of life has a way of moving on quickly. Jesus was on his way out of Jericho**.

- **If Bartimaeus had hesitated, he would have missed his moment. The Gospel is always urgent. When Christ calls, the right response is always now. "Today is the day of salvation." You have no idea what tomorrow may bring!**

Stage Three: True Faith Leads to a New Way of Living (v. 52)

- **This brings us to the final stage. True faith leads to a new way of life.**

  REPEAT. Look at verse 52. **READ V52 And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.**

- **Knowing the answer full well what he wanted, Jesus asked the blind man a gracious question: "What do you want me to do for you?"**

- **Bartimaeus replied, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." He asked for the one thing that would change everything. Jesus healed him and said, "Go your way; your faith has made you well."**

- But look at the very **last part of verse 52.** It does not say Bartimaeus **went his way. It says he followed Jesus on the way. He could have gone anywhere. He had his sight back. He had his freedom**.

- **But the man who had everything restored chose to follow the One who restored him**. That is the **natural result of genuine saving faith**.

- **Real faith does not just receive gift forgiveness and walk off. It follows the giver, the giver of eternal life**.

- Perhaps for **some of you men here, life has taken hard turns. There have been painful losses in your life, poor choices, and seasons of walking in the dark. You have said and done things you don't even want to think about!**

- The **enemy of your soul would have you believe that your past defines your path forward. Bartimaeus shows us something entirely different. When the Spirit of God touches a life, the direction changes**.

- **The man who used to sit in the dirt beside the road begging is now walking on that road, and he is walking with the eternal Son of God. He is following Jesus! What a tremendous change!**

- **Dear friends. This is what God's grace does. It does not merely forgive the past. By the power and grace of God, it transforms the future and gives you hope**.

- **A life once defined by sitting and begging is now one defined by following and serving. That is the path faith sets you on when you truly meet Christ**.

Conclusion

- Bartimaeus **had three things going against him that day: he was blind, he was poor, and he was nobody in particular as far as the crowd was concerned**.

- But **he had one thing that overcame all three of those obstacles**. **He had faith in the right person, and the right person responded to him. He called** on the name of the only One who could help him, **and he would not be silenced until that name answered back**.

- **Wherever you are today, whatever brought you to this place, and however long the road has been for you, the same Jesus who stopped because He heard a blind beggar is the Jesus who is present in this room right now.**

- **He is not too busy, and you can be certain He is very interested in you. He stopped for a poor, blind beggar, who called out to Him, and He will stop for you if you call out to Him**.

- **The question Jesus asked that blind man is the same one he asks every soul: "What do you want me to do for you?"**

- **Do not miss your moment. Throw off whatever is holding you back, cry out to him in faith, follow him on the way**. **Call upon the name of the LORD, and you will be saved.**

- **I close this time with these words of Jesus and remember: If you call out to Him, He will hear you and say this to you today. Read John 6:35-40.**

In Summary

1) True Faith Cries Out For Help Despite the Obstacle
2) True Faith Responds Immediately When Christ Calls
3) True Faith Leads to a New Way of Living

- **My friend, that is the message of Mark 10. One cry. One Savior. One life completely transformed by the grace of God.**

- **May the blind man's experience with Jesus on that ancient road be each of ours today!**

- **Prayer**